

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property
Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
24 February 2005 (24.02.2005)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2005/016370 A1

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: **A61K 38/21**,
31/7056, 31/7052, A61P 31/12

(21) International Application Number:
PCT/AU2004/001031

(22) International Filing Date: 3 August 2004 (03.08.2004)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
60/494,828 13 August 2003 (13.08.2003) US

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(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

— with international search report

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: METHOD OF TREATING VIRAL INFECTIONS

(57) Abstract: A method of pharmaceutical therapy comprising the co-administration of any form of interferon or any derivative thereof with a low dose of ribavirin (less than 400 mg /day or less than 6 mg/kg/day), or related compound, where the ribavirin or related compound provides a clinically effective blood level in the portal circulation but a less than clinically effective blood level in the peripheral circulation, to thereby provide a systemic effect of interferon throughout the body but a selective effect of ribavirin in the liver. The method also provides for the co-administration of any form of interferon or any derivative thereof with a high dose of ribavirin (preferably from 400-800 mg/day), or related compound, where the ribavirin or related compound is administered as a slow-release formulation such that it also provides a sustained virologic response in a patient and reduced side effects. The method also provides for the co-administration of an antioxidant or other membrane protective agent with both the interferon and ribavirin such that the hepatoprotective activity of the antioxidant or other membrane protective agent complements the virucidal effect of the interferon and ribavirin. The antioxidant or other membrane protective agent may be administered as a systemic or a low-dose, slow-release, liver-selective formulation.

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